Rural tourism in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu

2938. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the potential of rural tourism in the States of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action being taken thereon indicating district-wise location of such tourism spots; and

(c) the amount allocated to the States of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu to promote tourism for 2005-06 and the steps being taken for its full utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Based on proposals received from State Governments of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu to promote tourism and infrastructure development, funds allocated during 2005-06 are as follows:

Gujarat : Rs. 825.00 lakhs in 2005-06.

Tamil Nadu : Rs. 1394.50 lakhs in 2005-06.

Execution and utilization of funds are the responsibility of respective State Governments.

Flow of tourists in Madhya Pradesh

†2939. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a declining trend of flow of tourists in Madhya Pradesh has been recorded during the last three years;

(b) the details of annual flow of domestic as well as foreign tourists in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the assistance being provided to State Government by the Centre to attract the tourists to visit Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir. As per the information received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, total tourist visits (domestic and foreign) to the State increased from 49,70,561 in 2002 to 60,60,989 in 2003 (21.9% growth) and to 87,54,801 in 2002 (44.4% growth).

(b) The details of annual flow of domestic and foreign tourist visits in the State for 2002, 2003 and 2004 is given below:-

Year	Domestic tourist visits	Foreign tourist visits
2002	4903242	67319
2003	5968716	92273
2004	8609426	145375

(c) Development of tourism is the responsibility of State/UT Governments. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance to the State/UT Governments for Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits, Destination Development and Large Revenue Generating Projects under the schemes formulated for this purpose, in consultation with them based on *inter-se* priority, and availability of funds in a particular financial year. During the year 2004-05, 11 projects were prioritized for the State and an amount of Rs. 15.95 crore was sanctioned for the same.

Development of tourism in rural areas

2940. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has launched a project for development of tourism in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) what is the amount of investment involved in the project; and